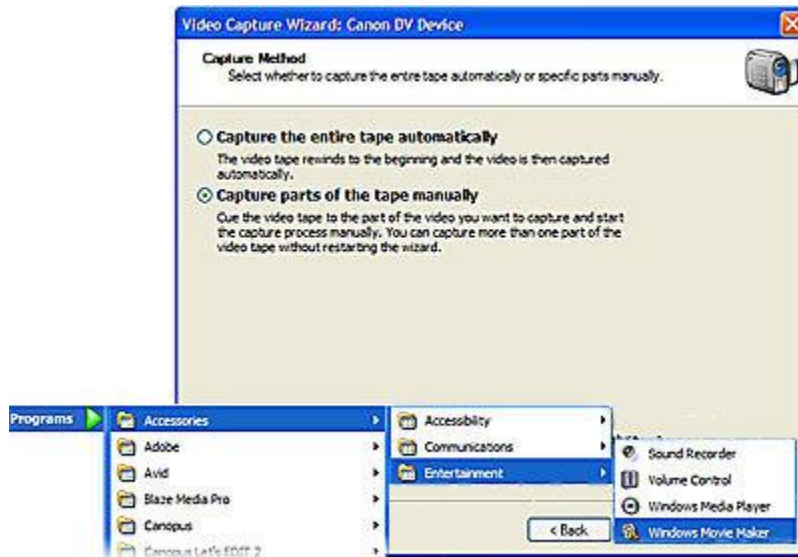


Creating Your First Short Movie

With Windows Movie Maker

Taken from: <http://desktopvideo.about.com/>

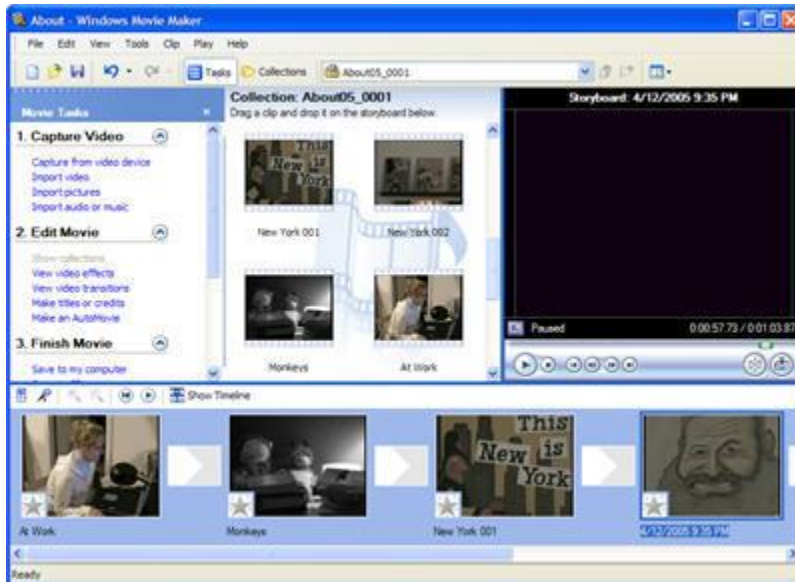
Capture or Import Your Clips



Movie Maker Video Capture

1. First, launch MovieMaker (**Start > All Programs> Accessories > Entertainment > Windows Movie Maker**).
2. Use the Movie Task List to select the capture option to capture video from your camcorder (for instructions, see Movie Maker's Help or Website).
3. As you import the video, you can control the length of each clip by pausing the import. You can then fast forward on your video camera to the beginning of the next clip.
4. You can also optionally use the Import Video option to import video clips already on your hard drive, or import

Arrange Your Clips on the Storyboard



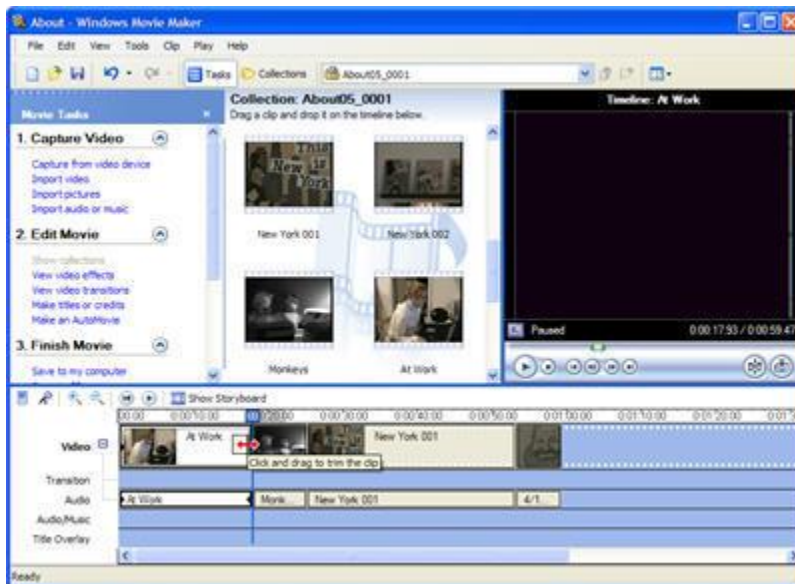
Movie Maker with Clips Arranged on the Storyboard

Once you've imported your clips, they will appear in the Collections area in Movie Maker.

1. Use the dropdown list to find your collection if it isn't currently displayed.
2. Now, simply take one the clips you want to use in this short video you're creating (you're kind of creating a music video, in a way) and drag it to one of the boxes on the Storyboard.
3. Double-click on any clip to play it in the Monitor window to see if you want to use it or not, or just to check on exactly what's on the clip, content-wise. If you like the Play button (and the rest of the VCR-like buttons) at the bottom of the Monitor, you can click on a clip just once to select it, and then click **Play**. Clicking Play again will pause the clip. You get the idea: just like a remote control.
4. Keep doing this until you have all the clips on the Storyboard that you'd like to use.
5. Save your work.
6. Here's where it gets creative. Move the clips around in the Storyboard until you feel you have a good sequence.
7. Save again.

By the way, you can rename your clips once you've brought them in. When you capture your clips, Movie Maker gives them a default name, such as the date and time they were captured. Just double-click on the name and type in a new one, or right-click and select "Rename" from the menu, similar to how you rename files in Explorer.

Edit Your Clips in Timeline Mode



Movie Maker with Clips in TimeLine Mode Being Trimmed

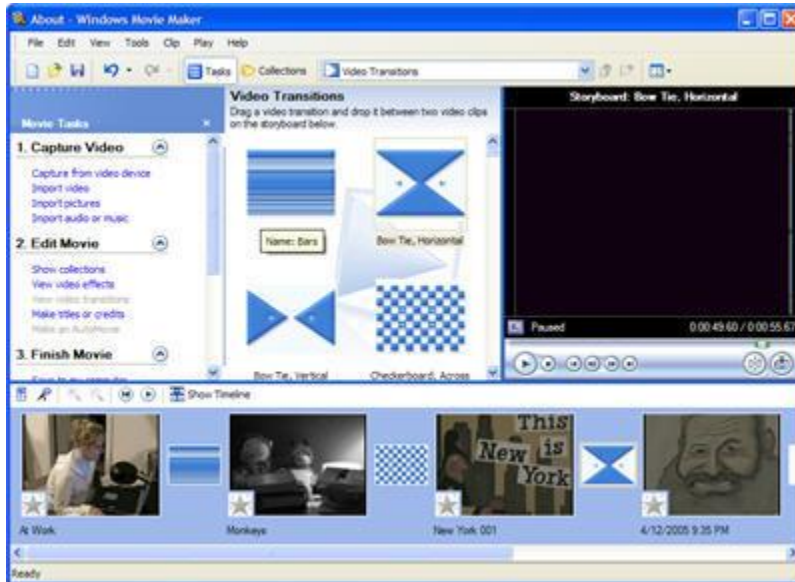
Switch to Timeline Mode by clicking on the "Show Timeline" button just above the Storyboard. Now the boxes have disappeared and have been replaced by something looking a bit like a filmstrip, with a few rows beneath it.

If you double-click on any clip down on the Timeline, it will play in the Preview Monitor, just like the clips did in the Collections area. Double-click the first clip to play it. Use the Clip menu at the top of the screen and select Set Start Trim Point to set the in point (any video in the clip up to this point won't be used in this video project).

Double-click the clip again to get it going again. When you reach a spot in the clip where you'd like the clip to end, use the Clip menu and select Set End Trim Point to set where the video clip will end. The video after this point will be discarded (as far as this project is concerned). By the way, you can also just click and drag the front (head) of the clip to set the start point or click and drag the end (tail) of the clip to set the end point.

Do this for all of the clips in the Timeline. Save your work after every time you trim a clip. You'll be doing this with more purpose and timing once we add the soundtrack. With the music you choose playing as you edit, you may be inspired to make cuts that match a crescendo, for example. And as you begin to go through your movie again and again, you'll see things that you'll want to edit out, or perhaps trim a clip to make it j-u-s-t a few seconds shorter.

Add Transitions



Movie Maker Showing Transitions Between Clips

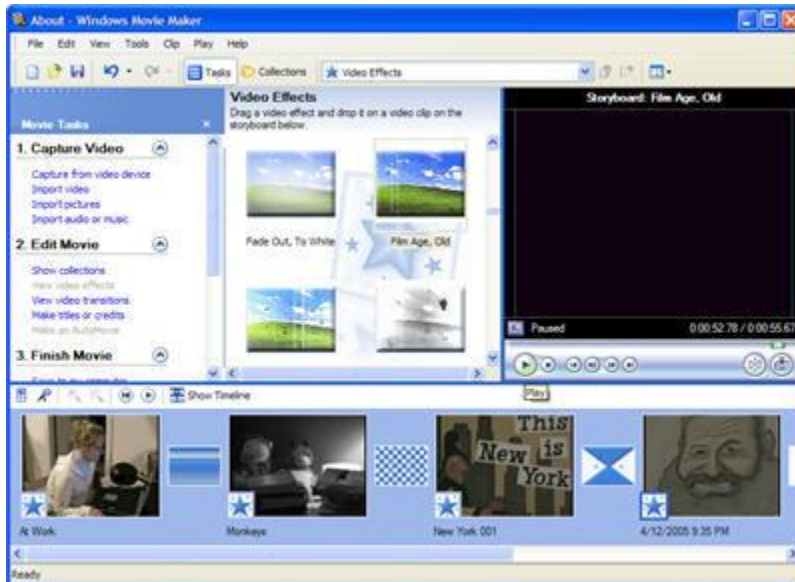
Hopefully you have been saving your work every step of the way. This is important because you are being creative here, making decisions that may be hard to recreate if Movie Maker crashes. So save, save, save.

To use transitions between clips, do this:

1. Switch to Storyboard mode by clicking the "Show Storyboard" button above the Timeline. See the smaller boxes that look a bit like semaphore flags between the boxes with the video clips? That's where you'll drop your transitions.
2. To display a set of transitions to select from, choose "View video transitions" from the Movie Tasks pane. You can also optional select Tools > Video Transitions from the menu or use the drop down menu on the toolbar if you prefer.
3. Select the transition you want to use and drag and drop it onto the semaphore flag between two clips.
4. If you want to see how the transition will behave, double-click on it. An animation for the transition will play in the Preview Monitor window.

Have fun with transitions, through as many in as you want, but remember: using transitions is a bit like adding spices to a recipe. Be subtle, use them wisely, or you'll ruin the mix. Ultimately, the best transition is the noble "cut" which is basically the lack of any transition at all.

Add Optional Effects



Movie Maker with Effects Added to Clips

Since the whole purpose of creating these mini-movies is to have fun (as well as to create them as fast as humanly possible), go ahead and throw in a few of the video effects supplied with Movie Maker. Ordinarily, effects distract the viewer from the message and they distract you, the video editor, from the task at hand: telling a story. You tend to get bogged down in creating “cool” special instead. However, since we are here to have fun, go on and throw in a few effects.

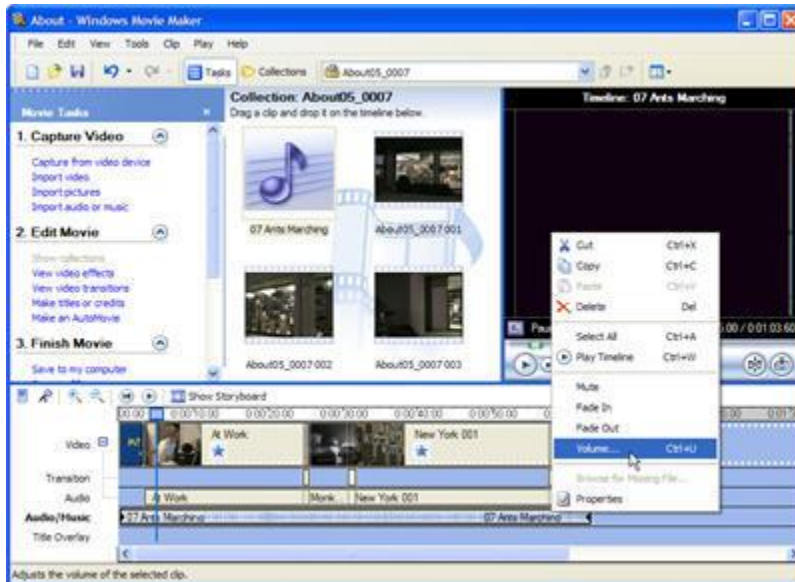
- To display the Video Effects palette, choose “View video effects” from the Movie Tasks pane, or select Tools > Video Effects from the Movie Maker menu.

Now, do you see the little box on each of your clips that has a shining star (that’s who you are). That’s where you’ll drop your chosen effect once you’ve selected it and dragged it to the clip. There are a number of good effects that ship with Movie Maker to change color and brightness and to make the clip look like an old scratchy piece of film, for example.

Experiment by dropping a filter onto a clip and then clicking the Play button for the Preview Monitor and see what it looks like. You can “stack” effects by dropping multiple effects onto the same clip.

To change the order of the effects, right-click on the little star and select Video Effects. This will display a dialog where you can re-order, remove, or add effects. To remove an effect without opening this dialog, right-click on the star and select Cut or Delete Effects.

Add an Optional Soundtrack



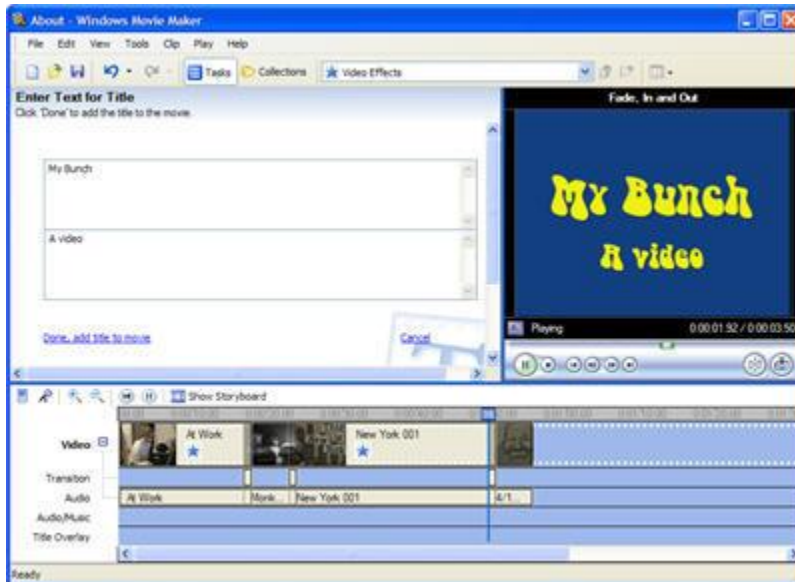
Movie Maker Audio Track Showing Popup Menu for Audio Controls

Music can add a lot to your video. You can use Windows Media Player to rip a track off a CD that you own to add to the soundtrack of your movie or use royalty-free music. Once you've assembled your clips, added your transitions and effects to your heart's content, add a bit of music to really give your short video something extra. If you are making a music-type video or a music montage (a number of short scenes without dialog), then you can keep the music fairly loud.

If the dialog or narration is important to the video, however, lower the volume of the music so it's heard only in the background.

1. To add music or a narration track, choose "Import audio or music" from the Movie Tasks pane or select Tools > Video Effects from the Movie Maker menu. You can import most music file types (including .wav, .mp3).
2. To add a narration track, you'll need to find or create a blank space in the audio track in Timeline mode (click "Show Timeline") and then select Tools > Narrate Timeline.
3. If you want the music track to completely hide the audio on your videos, or to play with the balance between the two, select Tools > Audio Levels and use the slider.
4. To adjust the volume of the audio on the Audio track, select the audio, right-click and select Volume and use the slider.
5. Right-click on any audio clip—including the audio tracks of any of your video clips—and adjust volume, create a fade in/fade out effect, or even entirely mute the audio.

Add a Title and Credits



Movie Maker Titles and Text Workspace

With Movie Maker, it's easy to add a title, with credits, such as “Summer in the City, a film by Dad” or “My Disastrous Summer: A Film I Wish I Could Forget by Ben Chappell and Dave Stiller.”

You should also consider end credits, as well. These, as you know from turning your head briefly to see if you forgot your coat while running to the parking lot after a movie, contain the names of everybody who ever had anything to do with the making of a film, various copyright warnings, and something about not harming any animals. You probably have some information of this type that you want to communicate to your audience. Titles and credits are the finishing touch on any movie. Just think about what you want to communicate.

1. To create your titles and credits, choose “Make titles or credits” from the Movie Tasks pane. You can also select Tools > Titles and Credits... from the Movie Maker menu. This brings up the Titles and Credits “workshop,” if you will.
2. Choose from a menu of possibilities the type of title or text you are creating. Then get to work and type it, just like you would in a word processor. You’ll see what the title looks like in the Preview Monitor as you type it.
3. To select a different way for the title to behave choose “Change the title animation” and select something else.
4. To change the font, the font size, the font color, etc., select, “Change the text font and color.”
5. Click "Done, add title to movie" when you're ready

Create Your Final "Output" for All to See



Movie Maker's Save Movie Wizard

For this final step, we'll actually create your movie, your "output" so to speak. This is the finished product that you want people to see and that they will view using a media player such as Windows Media Player or equivalent. For Movie Maker users, this will be a Windows Movie file (WMV). For iMovie users, this will be a QuickTime file. Here's how:

Of course, you can also "burn" your movie to a DVD. For that, you'll need iDVD '05 on the Mac or a product such as Sonic's MyDVD on the PC. You can optionally create a tape of your movie as well.